



Women's Health

Saving Lives Through Early Detection of Breast Cancer

“I really appreciate everything YW Women’s Health did for me. YW saved my life. I had no job, no money, no medical insurance, and basically no hope that I would not die.”

– Alicia, YW Women’s Health Client & Cancer Survivor

The Importance of Mammograms

More than four out of five YW client families are headed by single mothers - usually the sole wage earner and caregiver for the family. Studies have shown many women elect to forgo preventive health care due to economic constraints. Breast cancer that is identified within the first 12 months has nearly 100% cure rate; the importance of early detection in the continuing stability of the family cannot be overstated.

A Life-Saving Solution

Believing lives are saved through early detection, YW offers a comprehensive women’s breast health program in Collin, Dallas and Denton counties at no cost to uninsured and under-insured clients combining community-based screenings, diagnostic exams, patient navigation services, community outreach, breast self-examination education, and transportation assistance. YW’s goal is to empower women to follow through with breast-health care by overcoming barriers created by a lack of insurance and transportation, and limited English proficiency. Through education, access, and diagnosis women will experience earlier detection, expanded treatment options, and lower mortality rates.

Strong Bonds

YW was selected by Dallas County Affiliate of Susan G. Komen for the Cure® to implement the first Community Breast Health Patient Navigator program in Dallas. YW Patient Navigators are dedicated to guiding women through the health care system and connecting them with appropriate resources and supports. YW Patient Navigators work closely with other breast cancer service providers to decrease fragmented care through coordinated services, supports and treatment. Patient Navigation increases the likelihood of timely access and follow-through. By streamlining the access to breast screenings, diagnostics, treatment, and follow-up care, YW’s Patient Navigators enhance clients’ overall breast health care experience.

Increasing Access

YW increases accessibility to screenings and diagnostic services through (1) community-based mobile mammogram units in low-income, medically under-served neighborhoods, (2) contracted YW screening days at private health clinics, (3) transportation for clients who are unable to afford it on their own, and (4) screening vouchers for clients who need a more flexible screening schedule due to family and work responsibilities. All YW Women’s Health staff are bilingual, and services and materials are provided in both English and Spanish. Access to these screenings and diagnostic services leads to early detection of the disease -- which greatly impacts a woman’s long-term survival rate.

Advocacy

In order to help local breast health providers maintain effective referral systems and identify trends in services, YW created the Patient Navigator Action Coalition in 2008. Members of the Coalition work collaboratively in the Texas breast health field to proactively help women who deal with breast cancer or other breast health concerns to navigate the health care system through seamless referrals among its members.

Preventable Deaths

Early detection saves lives.

- Approximately 30% of women in Dallas County, are uninsured.
- Low-income women are less likely to receive annual mammograms and more likely to be diagnosed with advanced stages of cancer.

**Komen Dallas.*

